

## Mehta, Sandeep

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**From:** Mehta, Sandeep  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 18, 2019 8:27 AM  
**To:** Eric Smith; Scott Heemstra  
**Cc:** Hylton Jackson; Danielle Schreiber; Keith Delange; Pessetto, Jared  
**Subject:** RE: Vogel - Maurice Iowa Site  
**Attachments:** 2019\_09\_17\_11\_55\_04.pdf

Scott:

Good morning! My apologies for the delay in responding to the email below. I wanted to clarify and provide input/response to the email information below.

1. Based on the email below, the EPA appreciates Diamond Vogel's input that the Pilot Study is currently being implemented, and that you are moving forward in accordance with the Pilot Study Work Plan approved by the regulators (IDNR and EPA).
2. The goals of the Pilot Study, as identified in the Final Work Plan submitted via email dated May 24, 2019, is to evaluate the effectiveness of the technology in reducing the elevated concentrations of BTEX detected in the groundwater beneath the Site to concentrations below MCLs. The other goals are also identified further in Section 2.0 of that document. The Final North Work Plan goals are identified on page 2 under Section titled "Objectives". Therefore, these are the scopes and goals of these Pilot Study, unlike what is mentioned in the first paragraph in your email below. The other clarification is that these goals identified in the two referenced final work plan documents also implement the recommendations from the fourth five-year review report. The EPA appreciates that Diamond Vogel is working towards those goals from the two work plans as part of the pilot study.
3. The EPA has responded to the two letters referenced in the first paragraph in your email below. A copy of that letter is attached again with this email for your ready reference.
4. The EPA supports Diamond Vogel's goal of getting the site delisted. However, there are certain criteria that need to be met to enable delisting of the site. I believe these criteria have been provided previously.
5. The issue related to "Point of Compliance" has been identified by the EPA in several previous conversations and emails. This issue has been identified in the recently completed Five-Year Review report. As mentioned in the letter, the EPA believes that discussions between the stakeholders would enable the path forward on this issue in compliance with the EPA policy and guidance. The EPA is available to discuss this issue.
6. The EPA therefore requests Diamond Vogel's input on the status or regular monthly updates, if possible, on the implementation of the Pilot Study. The EPA also awaits the Design Plan Addendum to the Pilot Study Work Plan that was mentioned in the email below.

The EPA looks forward to a positive response from Diamond Vogel with the status updates and the submittal of the Design Plan Addendum. The EPA also looks forward to supporting Diamond Vogel in its cleanup efforts of the site contamination. Please contact me for any further questions or clarifications.

Very Respectfully,  
Sandeep Mehta, P.E.  
Ph: (913) 551-7763  
email: [mehta.sandeep@epa.gov](mailto:mehta.sandeep@epa.gov)

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**From:** Eric Smith <ESmith@ramboll.com>

**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2019 3:46 PM

**To:** Mehta, Sandeep <mehta.sandeep@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Hylton Jackson <hylton.jackson@dnr.iowa.gov>; Danielle Schreiber <dschreiber@verdantlaw.com>; Scott Heemstra <Scott.Heemstra@diamondvogel.com>; Keith Delange <KDelange@geotekeng.com>

**Subject:** Vogel - Maurice Iowa Site

Sandeep

On July 9, 2019, Vogel's attorney, Danielle Schreiber, sent you a letter regarding the groundwater point of compliance for the Site. Ms. Schreiber indicated that Vogel was questioning whether to move forward with the Pilot Study Work Plan (PSWP) because changing the groundwater point of compliance significantly changes the goals and scope of the PSWP (and is inconsistent with the Administrative Record). On July 15, 2019, IDNR sent a letter to EPA concurring with Ms. Schreiber's letter, stating that it did not agree with changing the groundwater point of compliance. On August 12, 2019, Scott Heemstra from Vogel asked for a status update from EPA regarding the groundwater point of compliance. Vogel has not heard anything from EPA to date regarding the groundwater point of compliance issue.

As you know, Vogel is committed to cleaning up the Site. Vogel submitted a comprehensive and aggressive bioremediation PSWP to be implemented throughout the Site, which includes a Plume-Stop barrier to prevent future off-site migration of contamination. Vogel's goal after implementation of the PSWP is to get the site delisted from the NPL.

Despite not hearing from EPA regarding changing the groundwater point of compliance, Vogel has decided to move forward with implementing the PSWP with the ultimate goal of cleaning the site to the current point of compliance. If Vogel waits any longer for EPA's response, it will likely not be able to begin implementation before May of 2020. Vogel still believes that changing the groundwater point of compliance is not warranted. By moving forward, Vogel is by no means agreeing or accepting EPA's proposed position to change the groundwater point of compliance.

As part of moving forward with implementation of the approved PSWP and North Area Work Plan I wanted to notify you of the following activities that Ramboll will be conducting on behalf of Vogel:

- Installation the four groundwater monitoring wells as part of the additional north area characterization September 11 – 12 (13) and collecting the surface water samples from the unnamed creek as detailed in the north area work plan.
- Submitting today via email the required request for rule by authorization from the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program USEPA Region 7 Iowa Program Coordinator. I have attached this document for your records.
- Submitting early next week the Design Plan Addendum to the PSWP.
- Conducting three soil borings, September 10 (11) in the area of the PlumeStop injection as part of the design verification testing (DVT) to verify the thickness and other injection parameters for the installation of the PlumeStop barrier.
- October 8 – estimated November 23, conduct injection of the slow release oxygen compound (EOx) and nutrient (diammonium phosphate, DAP) mixture in to the areas defined in the PSWP.
- Sometime during the same period (dates will be finalized following completion of the DVT) installation of the PlumeStop Barrier (estimated to take 6 – 9 days).

Sincerely,



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 7**

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Lenexa, Kansas 66219

**SEP 17 2019**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Alex Moon  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Land Quality Bureau  
502 East 9th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Danielle Schreiber  
Verdant Law, PLLC  
1025 Connecticut Avenue, Northwest.  
Washington, D.C. 200236

Re: Vogel Paint & Wax Co. Superfund Site, EPA ID No. IAD980630487  
Maurice, Sioux County, Iowa

Dear Mr. Moon & Ms. Schreiber:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the status of the Fifth Five-Year Review, or FYR, for the referenced site, and to respond to comment letters received from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, or IDNR, and counsel for Diamond Vogel, respectively dated July 15 and July 9, 2019. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency appreciates the parties' contribution to the FYR process and encourages continued interagency consultation in furtherance of the June 1990 Memorandum of Understanding and recent EPA guidance aimed at enhancing effective partnerships between the agency and states that are approved to implement federal environmental programs.<sup>1</sup>

The FYR for the Vogel Paint & Wax Co. Superfund Site in Maurice, Iowa, was completed and signed by the EPA on September 10, 2019. The EPA finalized the Fifth FYR in consideration of comments prepared by the IDNR and Diamond Vogel. The FYR has been published and is available under the "Site Documents & Data" tab of the EPA's Web page for the Site, available at <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/vogelpaintwax>.

The Fifth FYR concludes that the remedy at the Site is short-term protective, offering two recommendations that the EPA believes are necessary to ensure the long-term protectiveness of the selected remedy for the Site. As presented in section 6.0, the agency first recommends that additional source removal efforts be undertaken to reduce off-site migration of contaminants. Second, the agency

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<sup>1</sup> Memorandum from Susan Parker Bodine, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance, "Enhancing Effective Partnerships Between the EPA and the States in Civil Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Work" (July 11, 2019), available at <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/memo-enhancing-effective-partnerships-between-epa-and-states-civil-enforcement-and>; Memorandum from Cynthia L. Mackey, Director of the Office of Site Remediation Enforcement, "Environmental Protection Agency and State Cooperative Efforts at Superfund Sites" (Aug. 23, 2019), available at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-08/documents/epa-state-coop-mem-2019.pdf>.

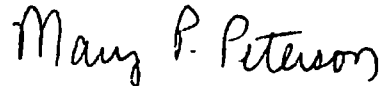
recommends that proprietary controls be implemented to prevent exposure to contaminated groundwater at the Site. A proprietary control will provide an additional institutional control layer to the Site's current listing on Iowa's Registry of Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites, which is an informational device that itself does not establish an enforceable prohibition against uses of on-site groundwater that may lead to human exposure.

In addition to these recommendations, the FYR identifies several other findings that should be considered to enhance the IDNR's monitoring and evaluation of the selected remedy and facilitate the Site's eventual deletion from the National Priorities List, or NPL. In particular, the third bullet presented in subsection 6.1 is responsive to the parties' mutual concern regarding the point of compliance for groundwater cleanup at the Site. Although the agency has concluded that the protectiveness of the remedy is not presently affected by the groundwater point of compliance, this issue will perhaps influence the agency's ability to achieve deletion of the Site from the NPL, which is a common goal of the EPA, IDNR, and Diamond Vogel. The EPA has therefore identified this item as requiring additional discussion among the stakeholders and will remain available for consultation as activities progress.

Finally, the EPA wishes to communicate its appreciation for Diamond Vogel's advancement of cleanup activities at the Site. The agency was recently informed of Diamond Vogel's intent to continue implementing the Pilot Study, which will address issues and recommendations from the fourth FYR report. The agency is hopeful that implementation of the Pilot Study will successfully reduce the on-site source area and prevent off-site contaminant migration in groundwater. The EPA appreciates Diamond Vogel's efforts to continue Pilot Study implementation while the parties undertake further evaluation of the groundwater point of compliance.

Thank you again for your assistance to the EPA throughout development of the Fifth FYR. If you have any questions concerning this document, please do not hesitate to contact Sandeep Mehta of my staff at (913) 551-7763, or Jared Pessetto of the Office of Regional Counsel at (913) 551-7793.

Sincerely,



Mary P. Peterson  
Director

Superfund and Emergency Management Division